



The Coal
Authority



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RTPI

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For the Attention of: Mr D Cross – Case Officer
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

[By Email: planning@merthyr.gov.uk]

18 April 2019

Dear Mr Cross

PLANNING APPLICATION: P/19/0073

Provision of 36 camping pods and 5 chalets, erection of shower/toilet block and creation of play and picnic area. Construction of new parking area (141 spaces) with overflow carpark (85 spaces), together with a trail maintenance yard, new highway access routes, ground profile works, drainage,, infrastructure and landscape works ; Bike Park Wales, Gethin Woodland Centre, Abercanaid, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 1YZ

Thank you for your notification of 28 March 2019 seeking the views of The Coal Authority on the above planning application.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. As a statutory consultee, The Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.

The Coal Authority Response: Material Consideration

I have reviewed the proposals and confirm that the application site falls within the defined Development High Risk Area; therefore within the application site and surrounding area there are coal mining features and hazards which need to be considered in relation to the determination of this planning application.

Our records indicate that the site is in an area of likely historic unrecorded coal workings at shallow depth.

The application is supported by a Coal Mining Risk Assessment, dated November 2018 and prepared by Intégral Géotechnique (Wales) Limited and a Site Investigation Report, dated February 2019 and prepared by Intégral Géotechnique (Wales) Limited. The Risk

Assessment makes recommendations for intrusive site investigations and the Site Investigation Report sets out details of these works and their findings.

The report states that four boreholes have been drilled in areas where new structures are proposed within the site. The report states that thin coal seams were encountered at shallow depth beneath the site but that these were all recorded as intact. The report authors note that due to the observed intact nature of the thin coal seams and the proven rock cover, they consider that there is little risk of shallow coal workings beneath the proposed bike hire building, shower block and small external catering unit causing mine related ground subsidence at the site surface.

We assume that the report authors have investigated those elements of the proposal which they considered was most at risk from past coal mining activity and that they consider the works carried out adequate in this respect.

We also note that there are two mine entries (adits) close to the northern boundary of the site, however based on the red line boundary indicated on the site location plan submitted these features appear to lie outside of the site. Our comments are made on this basis.

On the basis of the information submitted, and the professional opinion of the report authors set out therein, we have **no objection** to this planning application.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

Melanie Lindsley

Melanie Lindsley BA (Hons), DipEH, DipURP, MA, PGCertUD, PGCertSP, MRTPI
Development Team Leader

Disclaimer

The above consultation response is provided by The Coal Authority as a Statutory Consultee and is based upon the latest available data on the date of the response, and electronic consultation records held by The Coal Authority since 1 April 2013. The comments made are also based upon only the information provided to The Coal Authority by the Local Planning Authority and/or has been published on the Council's website for consultation purposes in relation to this specific planning application. The views and conclusions contained in this response may be subject to review and amendment by The Coal Authority if additional or new data/information (such as a revised Coal Mining Risk Assessment) is provided by the Local Planning Authority or the Applicant for consultation purposes.

In formulating this response The Coal Authority has taken full account of the professional conclusions reached by the competent person who has prepared the Coal Mining Risk Assessment or other similar report. In the event that any future claim for liability arises in relation to this development The Coal Authority will take full account of the views,

conclusions and mitigation previously expressed by the professional advisers for this development in relation to ground conditions and the acceptability of development.